

to assist constituents. Her positive attitude and exceptional work ethic are exemplary. Thank you, Madam Speaker, for allowing me to express my gratitude to Mrs. Debra Hembree for 11 years of dedicated service.

# AUTHORIZATION TO ESTABLISH COMMEMORATIVE WORK

SPEECH OF

**HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 12, 2022*

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of my bill, H.R. 6611 to authorize the French Embassy in the United States to establish a commemorative work in Rock Creek Park to honor the extraordinary contributions of Jean Monnet.

Jean Monnet, a French citizen living in Washington, DC, played an extraordinary role promoting cooperation and peace on both sides of the Atlantic, which has furthered the national interest of the United States and is also of lasting historical significance to the American people.

Specifically, he is credited for his skillful efforts to restore peace between European nations, playing a critical role during both World Wars, and is often referred to as the founder of the European Union. Having sowed the seeds of the European Union, we continue to reap the benefits of Monnet's work today as evidence through the strength of the European Union and the continued coordination of the transatlantic alliance countering authoritarianism wherever it exists.

To provide more color on the importance of establishing this commemorative work, I would like to speak about the great accomplishments of Jean Monnet.

He was a French diplomat and businessman, as well as a dedicated citizen of Europe and a devoted friend of the United States. Monnet was a thoughtful individual who played a critical role in many of the 20th centuries major events. Today, he is most known for his efforts during both World Wars, the rebuilding of Europe, and the founding of European Union.

Specifically, Monnet is recognized for his creative thinking that was essential to the U.S. and Allied victory over Nazi Germany. After seeking refuge in the United States during Nazi-Germany's occupation of France, Monnet served as an adviser to U.S. President Franklin Delano Roosevelt and as a special envoy of the United States to the Free French. During that time, he also became a member of the British Purchasing Commission. There, he worked with senior U.S. officials to coordinate Allied resources, galvanize U.S. war production, and unleash the "arsenal of democracy," a phrase coined by Monnet and later made famous by President Roosevelt. In fact, economist John Maynard Keynes once said that Monnet's contributions shortened the global conflict by an entire year and, through his actions, saved tens of thousands of European and American lives.

Following the Allied victory of WWII, Monnet started several initiatives which are known to have been the catalysts for the eventual creation of the European Union. For instance, Monnet proposed the creation of the European

Coal and Steel Community (ECSC), an initiative that pooled the coal and steel resources of 6 countries in Europe, greatly contributing to increased production and resolving a centuries old dispute over these resources. In addition, he established the Action Committee for the United States of Europe, a political organization that united parties across Europe to advocate for further European integration. These 2 actions, the creation of the ECSC and the Action Committee, were both critical steps in the formation of the political union that the European Union represents today.

Monnet's legacy continues today as the transatlantic alliance stands united in the face of Russian aggression and rising autocracy globally. The United States and Europe must continue to face our challenges as he so strongly encouraged: by working together towards a more peaceful future.

With that being said, I want to acknowledge the bi-partisan effort it took to move this legislation forward and I thank my fellow Co-Chairs on the House French Caucus, Representatives LATTA, SCHIFF, and WILSON for their original co-sponsorship and all efforts to advance this legislation. I'd also like to thank Chairs GRIJALVA, NEGUSE, and my colleagues on the Natural Resources Committee for consideration of this measure and for allowing it to move to the floor so expeditiously.

I also want to thank the leadership of this House for taking on this important issue, and supporting the passing of H.R. 6611. The commemoration to Monnet will stand as a continual reminder of the historic and continuing importance of the transatlantic partnership between the United States, France, and the greater European community. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

SUSIE MURRAY

**HON. BETH VAN DUYNE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 15, 2022*

Ms. VAN DUYNE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Susie Murray, the school nurse at Ursuline Academy. Since the beginning of the pandemic, Susie has gone above and beyond to keep the students, faculty, and staff of Ursuline Academy safe.

Susie diligently kept up on the protocols from the city, county, and state. She also carefully kept track of cases to help keep students and faculty as safe and healthy as possible. Susie's efforts allowed Ursuline to avoid additional lockdown periods when they returned to in-person learning. When uncertainty disheartened parents, teachers and students, Susie remained cool-headed and dedicated to the task ahead of her.

The Covid-19 pandemic, however, was not the beginning of Susie's dedication to her community. Even before the pandemic, she played a vital role in the well-being of Ursuline's students and faculty by attending retreats, chaperoning the Students Reach Out service club, and always being ready and willing to support a student or colleague in any way.

On behalf of the North Texas community, I'd like to extend my gratitude to Susie for her dedicated leadership before, during, and after the pandemic.

HONORING BRITT VAN

**HON. DEREK KILMER**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 15, 2022*

Mr. KILMER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service of Britt Van, a brilliant staffer and someone I am proud to have worked alongside for years.

Britt departs the New Dem Coalition as Policy Director this month after 5 years and 7 months with the organization. I feel especially fortunate she was on the team during the time I served as Chair of the Coalition.

During my tenure as Chair, Britt was a driving force in making the New Dems the strong coalition of policy leaders in Congress that we are known as today. She knows every New Dem policy area like the back of her hand and has skillfully guided Members on issues from housing to trade. She also restructured and revived the Coalition's policy task forces, which continue to do important work in finding the best solutions to pressing problems.

But I am most grateful and proud of Britt's work on behalf of the Coalition on 2 brilliant ideas: automatic stabilizers and the RECOMPETE program.

With automatic stabilizers, Britt took a very complicated, "wonky" idea and made it real and actionable for policymakers across the ideological spectrum. She advanced this idea forward in the months following the COVID-19 outbreak when we discussed how and when to enhance federal benefits during economic downturns, like we saw during the pandemic. While we weren't successful, I am confident policymakers will eventually see the value of automatic stabilizers for federal benefits. When that day comes, we can thank Britt for taking this idea from concept to reality.

With the RECOMPETE program, Britt helped me bring to life something very near and dear to my heart. When I was growing up in Port Angeles, I saw my community suffer from an economic downturn that fundamentally changed the fabric of my life. The timber industry took it on the chin, and many families were never able to recover. Since then, I've spent most of my adult life trying to find a solution and make sure this doesn't continue happening, a solution to ensure we protect workers and communities and make sure no one gets left behind. Frankly, it's why I came to Congress. And that's why I asked Britt to help me create the RECOMPETE program, which provides communities with a flexible, long-term grant to create jobs and lay the foundation for long-term economic growth.

Britt and I worked on this legislation for many long months, and after many iterations, our RECOMPETE Act was finally passed by Congress and signed into law as a part of the historic CHIPS and Science Act.

Britt's work with the RECOMPETE Act is just 1 example of how she embodies the model of what a public servant is and should be. She digs down deep into an issue, pours her life and soul into the work, and truly does it in service of a better tomorrow. She believes in the best of government to help people. She believes in the work we do and goes forward—undeterred and bravely—with that work. You really can't wish for much more in a staffer or a person—and I didn't ever.

Britt has been a wonderful presence at New Dems and on the Hill for the past 5 plus